



Official Memorandum

PO Box 2157
Los Banos, CA 93635
sldmwa.org

To: SLDMWA Board of Directors and Alternates

From: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Chris Linneman, Regional Drainage Coordinator
Orvil McKinnis, Westside Watershed Coalition Coordinator

Date: January 8, 2026

RE: Staff Report on Activity Agreements - December 2025

Background

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for December 2025 regarding specified¹ Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

Integrated Regional Water Management Activity (IRWM) Summary

The Roundtable of Regions met to determine potential paths forward for the IRWM Program in the future, given the limited amount of funding provided in Proposition 4 for IRWM Activities (\$100M), and has released a transition plan that may be of interest to member agencies².

Westside San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRMWP)

Self-Help Enterprises has prepared a draft Community Water Needs Assessment for disadvantaged communities (DACs) in the Westside San Joaquin IRWM Region, incorporating revisions from staff. The Assessment is being updated to identify and prioritize the most critical drinking water needs for DACs in the region, especially during drought years. The revised draft will be distributed to an IRWM Activity Agreement Member subcommittee for review and input prior to completion, which is anticipated by the end of the fiscal year.

At present, all tasks for the Proposition 1 IRWM grant are on schedule. An amendment request letter for Amendment 7 was submitted to DWR to accommodate construction delays for both CCID and Westlands. The requested amendment would extend the agreement end date to June 30, 2026 with no funds to be requested after September 30, 2026. DWR has granted the amendment request and the term of the grant has been extended to June 30, 2026.

¹ For the sake of completeness, this includes those Activity Agreements that have been approved by the Board of Directors, but not yet signed by all interested members and/or participants (i.e., the Los Vaqueros Expansion Project Activity Agreement, the Exchange Contractors 2019-2023 Transfer Program Activity Agreement, and the Westside-San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Agreement).

² Request from Authority staff.



Finally, staff has executed a contract with The Ferguson Group for grant support to support implementation of IRWM projects in the region. Staff will be rolling out the introduction to the program for member agencies for calls for projects throughout the region to be aggregated into a master list to seek funding support.

Staff intends to produce a master list of member agency projects, with the intention of using this list to identify funding opportunities, as well as programs that need additional funding support, to assist in guiding educational efforts related to infrastructure funding to advance member agency and Water Authority priority projects.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity (SGMA) Activity Summary

General SGMA Activities

Q4 water level and quality measurements are being uploaded by the GSAs into the subbasin database for evaluation by technical consultants for the 2025 report and associated monitoring for GSP implementation.

The various Committees authorized approval of a Subbasin Well Mitigation Plan, and continued discussions around transitioning to a new fiscal and administrative agent in the FY27 year, consistent with Authority engagement in implementing the Strategic Plan. Action was taken to recommend that GSA's adopt a resolution to establish a new joint-powers authority (JPA), with a goal of full adoption by all D-M Subbasin GSA's in January. As a result of delays, the Water Authority will continue to support program implementation through the Water Authority budgeting process, with a transition to take place during FY27, once the new JPA is established.

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin have finalized and adopted Pumping Reduction Plans (PRPs) for their respective Zones. The PRPs are part of the adopted GSP for the Subbasin. They are specific to identified "zones" and are a key component to effective local SGMA implementation. The PRPs will guide GSAs as they seek to avoid "undesirable results" as defined in the law for six sustainability indicators. These indicators include groundwater levels, subsidence, water quality, loss of storage, and interconnected surface water. PRPs began implementation in January 2025.

Coordinated Activities

A subgroup of Coordination Committee members and technical consultants are meeting with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff as the Subbasin seeks to avoid a possible "Probation" designation. SWRCB Staff continues to request additional details on the GSP's proposed actions on the water quality sustainability indicators, but positive momentum is occurring and there seems to be general agreement between Board staff and subbasin representatives on a path forward that could move the subbasin off the probation pathway.

Finally, work was completed on one and work continues to advance the construction of two other interconnected surface water monitoring well installations and three continuous GPS monitoring stations to improve the Subbasin's monitoring network. Authority staff are coordinating with needs for the Delta-Mendota Canal, in addition to the general monitoring network, in discussions about subsidence monitoring stations.



Drainage Activity Summary

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity

The Grassland Bypass Channel gates have remained closed since February of 2024 despite substantial rain events in February and March. Selenium concentrations in Mud Slough and the San Joaquin River remain below the water quality objective.

Grassland Basin Program Activities

- General administration: Review and approve consultant billing. Field review of drainage conditions and correspondence with SJRIP manager. Correspondence with Regional Board staff occurred as required.
- Mud Slough Restoration Project: The intent of this project is to restore Mud Slough in accordance with the 2010 MOU between the Authority and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The Water Authority adopted the CEQA for the project in December 2021, which was not challenged. CDFW provided a letter in January 2024 that accepted the Water Authority's proposed actions to restore Mud Slough as it relates to the MOU, focused on the removal of old flow control structures. These structures were removed in August and this work is now complete. There is an issue separate from the MOU concerning restoring Mud Slough flows into Newman Lake. Alternatives to address that are still in discussion.
- Compliance Monitoring: Monitoring in compliance with the 2019 revised WDRs and 2019 Use Agreement is a continuous and daily effort. Regular flow, water quality and toxicity monitoring are required at eight locations at a frequency that varies from monthly to daily.
- Grassland Drainage Area Coalition: Work continues to provide coverage for farmers within the Grassland Drainage Area for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.
- Proposition 84 Grant: Work is ongoing to support the Prop 84 Grant administered by Panoche Drainage District for improvements to the San Joaquin River Improvement Project. The Short-Term Storage Basins construction is completion. Two additional projects are in progress.